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THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY

AUGUST, 1917

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSEUMS AND THEIR RELATION TO EDUCATION

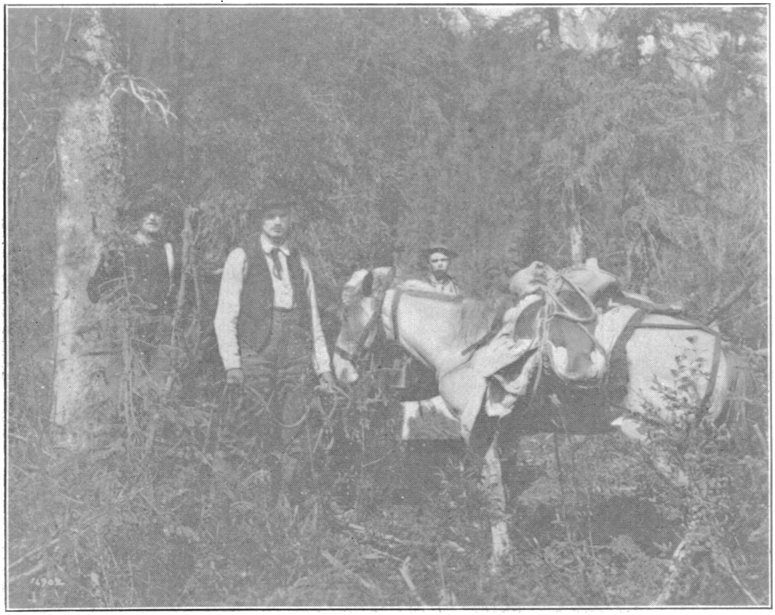
By HARLAN I. SMITH

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, OTTAWA, CANADA

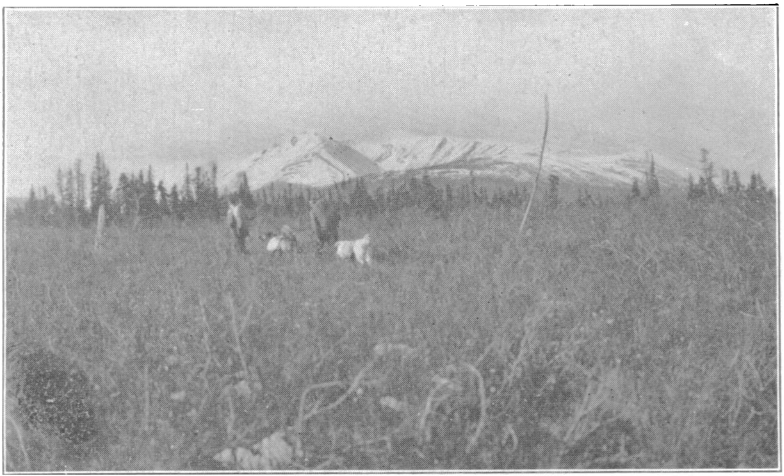
MANY of our people have been like the little girl, who on glancing around a museum said, " Mother, Why! this is a dead circus." They do not appreciate the real use and value of a museum. We do not wonder at it when we see the dusty, uninteresting, poorly arranged collections in many museums where there are few, if any, labels and the whole tends to disgust, in fact to exemplify disorder rather than to be pleasing, helpful or educational. People think these are fair samples of museums and so such museums tend to prevent our people from knowing how useful a museum may be and from wanting any museum.

Museums are warehouses of specimens. The specimens are stored, exhibited, or both stored and exhibited. The storing of specimens saves them for future students, and sometimes from total loss. The totem poles, for instance, may be burned or neglected by the Indians with change in their beliefs and mode of life, unless stored in museums. Some museums have phonographic archives containing large numbers of records of songs of various native tribes that are becoming extinct. No one has a moral right to horde in his home a specimen which is a key to knowledge that would be lost were thieves to break in his house or fire destroy it. Such specimens should be stored where they are available to all.

Museums are something more than warehouses, however. They are certainly, if slowly, evolving from warehouse collections of specimens used only by scientists, or of mere curios for the public gaze, to peerage with research institutions, schools, and libraries. Museums employ the methods of such institutions and they in turn all use museum methods. Museums



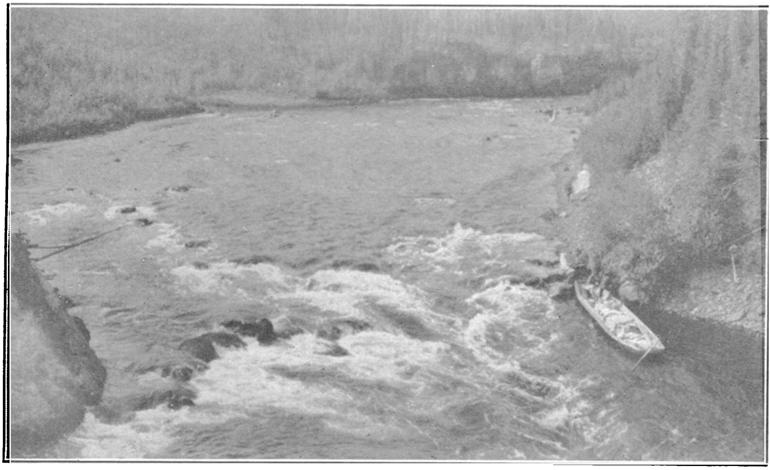
EXPEDITIONS ARE SENT OUT BY SCIENTIFIC MUSEUMS. Pack horse with Geological Survey, Canada.



EXPLORING EXPEDITIONS SOMETIMES USE PACK DOGS.

carry on researches, teach and have libraries. Research institutions, schools and libraries, all have museums.

The great museums are making admission free and are supported, as are schools and libraries, by taxes from all, or by gifts from successful business men who realize their value. Dime museums are being forgotten. Collections of abnormal and ugly two-headed calves and three-legged chickens are of less interest and use than undeformed thoroughbreds which are of use and beauty. People have learned that truth is more wonderful and of more social service than charlatanism, and that truth welcomes investigation.

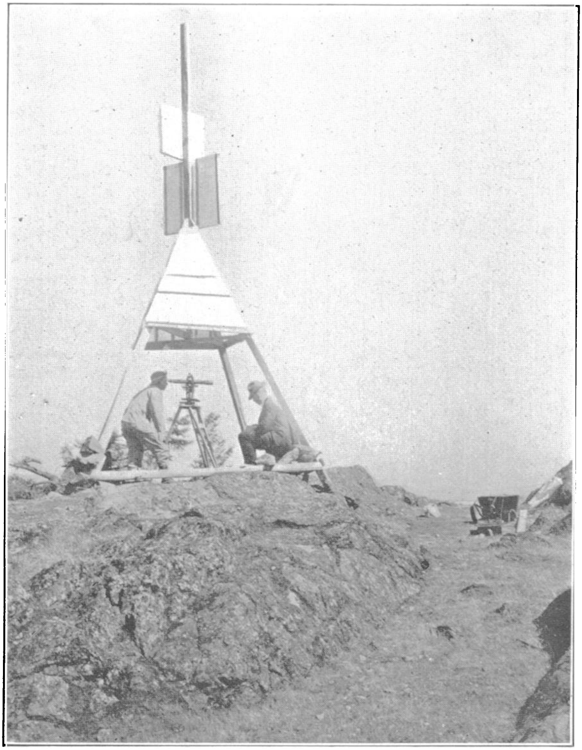


Unknown Rivers are explored by Scientific Expeditions.

The Main Functions of All Museums

All knowledge is the result of research, so that research is one of the most important services to education that a museum can accomplish. The little child is a true scientist. By tasting everything he learns what is poison; by feeling fire he learns that it burns. After knowledge is thus obtained by investigation, it may be taught to all by such means as scientific reports, exhibits, lectures, encyclopedia text-books, popular guide books, magazines and newspapers, either in or out of schools, libraries and museums. No one knows who discovered how to make fire, but we learn how rather than discover how. So the older child in school loses much of his scientific method and depends more on memorizing the discoveries of others.

The research of the past produced the knowledge we learn and use to-day, but research is still going on. So all museum teaching work is based upon research. Some museums are



SCIENTIFIC WORK IS DONE IN DISTANT PLACES BY SCIENTISTS SENT OUT BY SCIENTIFIC MUSEUMS.

limited to research work and in museums recreation may be derived from seeing and learning of natural and beautiful objects.

MANY KINDS OF MUSEUMS

We have possibilities of many kinds of museums, such as scientific or research museums, university museums, school museums, children's museums, kindergarten museums, public museums, recreation, tourist or vacation museums, farmers' museums, commercial museums, museums of safety devices, museums for the blind, and art museums, while zoological and botanical gardens are kindred institutions—living or out-of-door museums. We have museums dealing with specimens from the whole world, others able only to deal well with specimens from one country, province, county or local area. Also there are national museums supported by nations, museums supported by provinces, cities and societies.

SCIENTIFIC OR RESEARCH MUSEUMS

Museums devoted solely to scientific work send out exploring expeditions, store specimens to be used for research, carry on scientific investigations, and publish the results. To get some scientific material by means of which new knowledge is found out and by means of which this knowledge is diffused to all the world, hardy men must penetrate into the uttermost wilds of the earth, endure the bitter cold of the Arctic and the dangers of the tropical forest. In the past some scientific museums degenerated into dusty garbage heaps, and research work was neglected in a stampede for "popularization" which was not even interpretation.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS

University museums give opportunity for professors and students to do scientific research work and supply labeled specimens, casts, models and maps to illustrate the courses of study, just as the university library supplies literature.

SCHOOL MUSEUMS

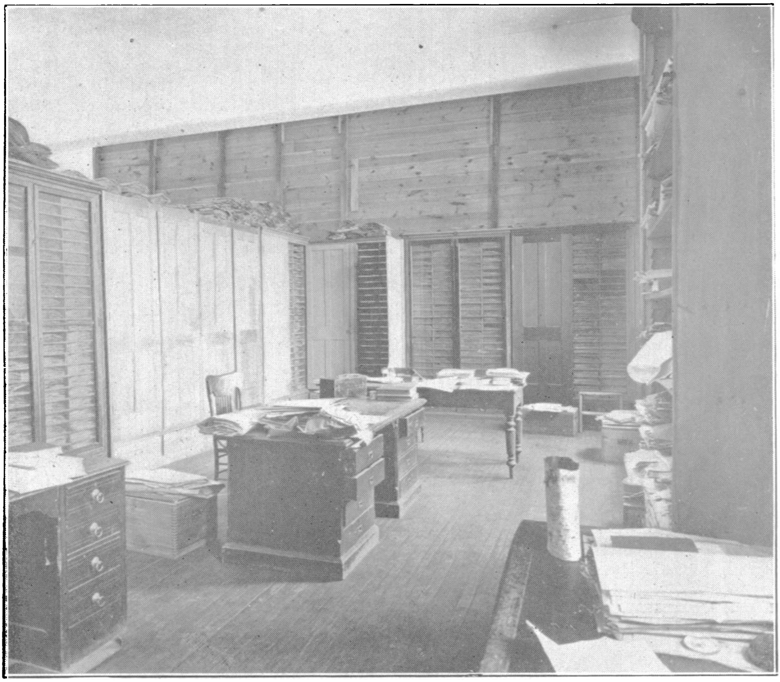
School museums not only teach by exhibiting labeled specimens that illustrate the subjects in the text-books, such as lava mentioned in the geography, and cotton bolls mentioned in botany; but they also give each student a chance to do research work, or to observe, draw conclusions and think for himself, rather than merely to memorize what his teacher tells him or what is in some text-book. Thus early in life he may have actual practise and become proficient in what he needs to do all through life.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS

Children's museums are similar to school museums, but are not so intimately connected with school studies and are of more general interest. They usually maintain many lecture courses illustrated with beautiful lantern pictures. Museums have so interested children in this method of study that they have to exclude children during school hours to keep them from running away from school.

KINDERGARTEN MUSEUMS

Kindergarten museums are, as might be supposed, children's museums of very elementary character. Some other museums provide a trained kindergartner to assist children in



Scientific Museums Store Specimens to be used for Research.
Herbarium in the Geological Survey Museum.

studying specimens. Others have so many children visitors as to require a staff of kindergartners.

PUBLIC MUSEUMS

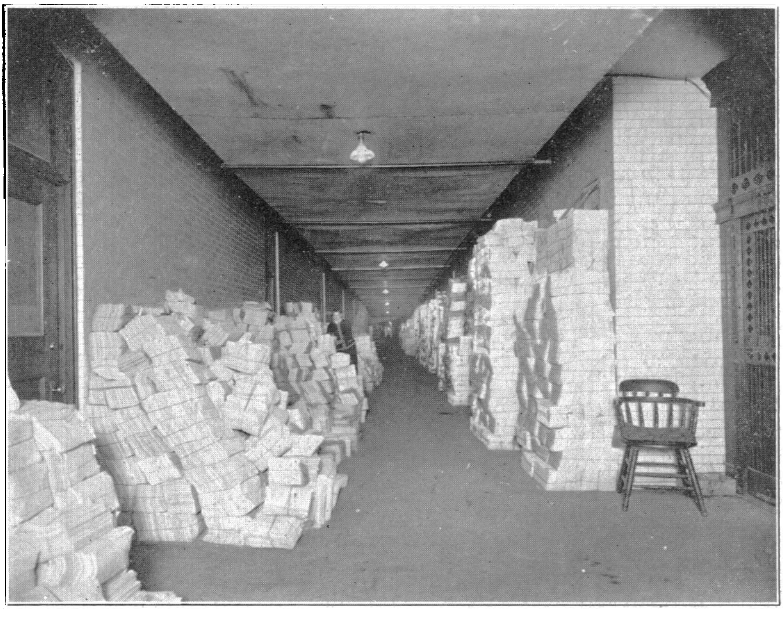
Public museums, as the name indicates, are of material so arranged as to interest the general public rather than the scientist or the school child. They aim to provide recreation. It is now understood that education does not cease at graduation, but continues throughout life, and so exhibits of an educational character are provided that are of broad, world-wide, general interest to adults as well as to children and scientists. In other words, they are like school museums adapted to older people. Then, too, it is known that to learn of beautiful and interesting things outside of the day's work is recreation, and, conversely, that recreation may attract the people to exhibits and that, once attracted, they may be taught much that will be useful to them.

RECREATION, TOURIST OR VACATION MUSEUMS

Recreation or tourist museums aim to give recreation and to rest tired minds by directing attention in new channels and are usually devoted to the area where they are located as supplementary to the out-door tourist attractions.

FARMERS' MUSEUMS

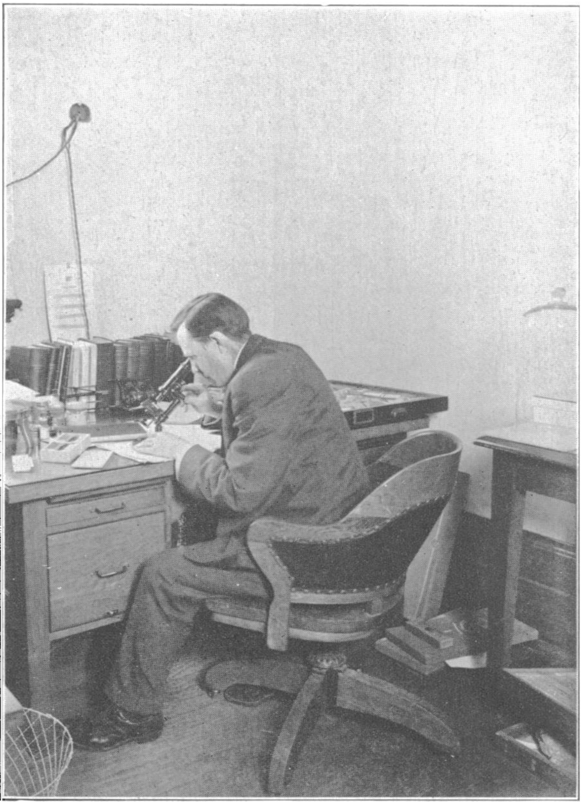
Farmers' museums are not yet well evolved. Possibly they will use specimens of various kinds of soil, with labels telling what crops will grow best therein. They may need samples of seeds. I have known of a farmer disgusted with his crop of seed because he had never before seen just that kind of seed in its hull and thought it was shrivelled when in reality it was excellent. Farmers' museums will probably have specimens of the eggs, the young in various stages and the adults of the chief insects which do damage to crops and with specimens showing the damage which they do to crops, together with labels telling how to get rid of such pests. The labels may tell the great total money value of the annual loss to the crops. If the museum can not afford specimens of each breed, sex and age of cattle, horses, sheep, poultry and the like, it may at least have good pictures with labels indicating the points of excellence to be arrived at in breeding. There may also be exhibits of the bones of the domestic animals with perhaps pictures of diseased conditions, and labels telling how to cure them.



VAST NUMBERS OF PUBLICATIONS ARE ISSUED BY SCIENTIFIC MUSEUMS. The Geological Survey Museum, Canada, sends a copy of each publication to every Canadian library and newspaper and to many Canadians. It also sends to many institutions and persons in other countries, and still has a reserve stock for future use.

COMMERCIAL MUSEUMS

Commercial museums show resources, industries and commercial products and are chiefly maintained by and for business men. In one, for instance, are shown boats, nets and the whole salmon industry, from the salmon to the can, or coal, with models of mines and pictures, so that if a coal man's visiting friend had insufficient time to visit the mine, he could get a good idea of it in town. Such museums appeal to business men chiefly because they advertise their wares.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS CARRIED ON IN SCIENTIFIC MUSEUMS.

ART MUSEUMS

Art museums of the past all too frequently exhibited a few old masters and broken sculptures, while the art curator sat like an owl clothed in unapproachable dignity. Now the best of them encourage beautiful handicrafts among the humbler workers, and take an interest in beautifying the place where they are located, as by advising on town planning, on the architecture of public buildings and bridges, on the laying-out of public and private gardens, on the mural decoration of such places as schools and theaters and on the artistic furnishing of houses. The great artists who painted the old masters and modelled the now highly prized though broken sculptures of antiquity no doubt also did much more to beautify their cities and assist their citizens to live beautiful lives than is indicated by the broken bits of statuary dug up and shown in museums. They probably had fine gardens themselves and worked for civic improvement in all esthetic lines.

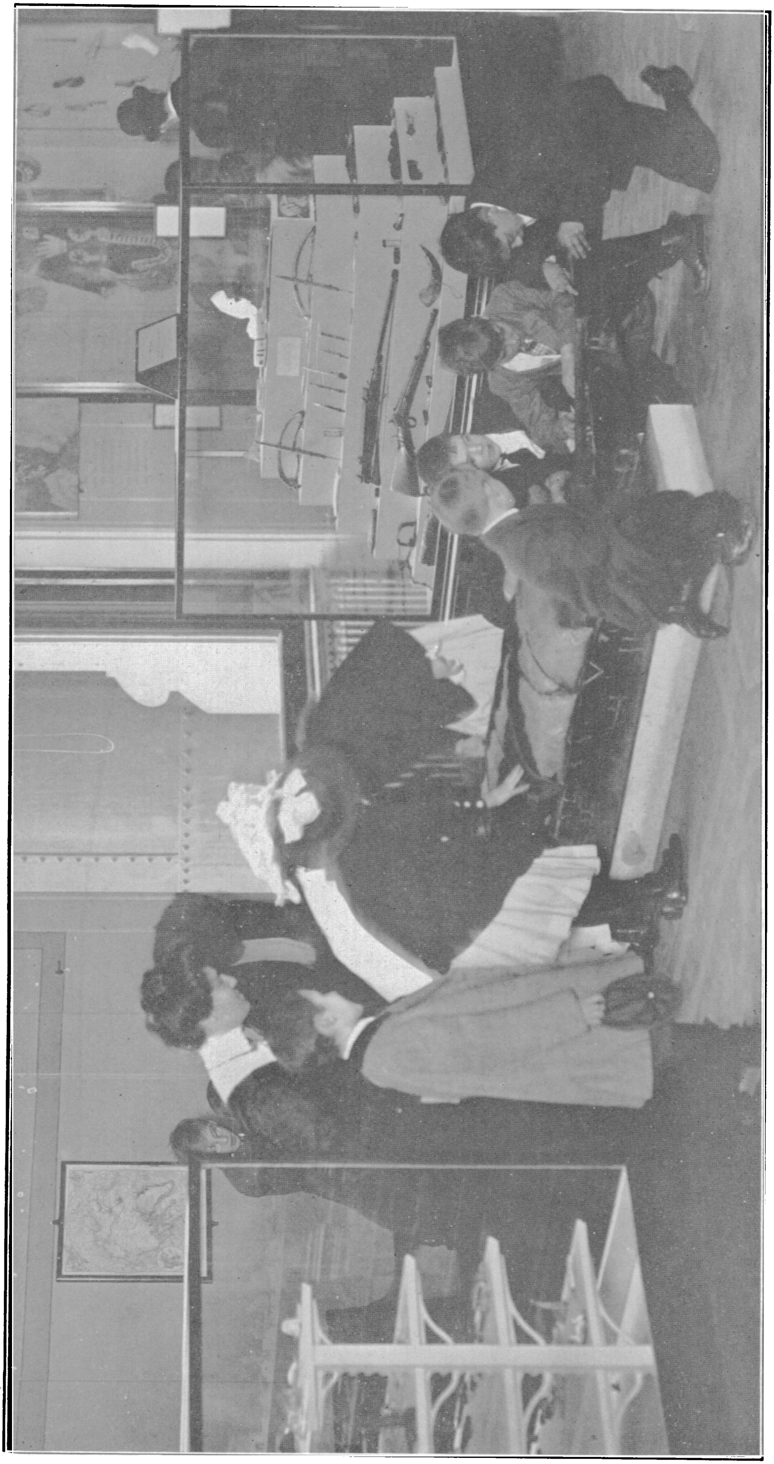
A National Museum

A national museum might include several kinds of museums or all kinds; certainly it is better able to do scientific work, special work, and cover vast areas than museums which have less financial backing and which are unable to send expeditions to far countries or to employ highly paid specialists. A national museum may present samples of all kinds of museums as patterns to the other museums of the country. A city wishing to establish a children's museum, for instance, may first study the children's museum hall in a national museum.

Aimless museums are evolving into institutions of definite and useful purposes. It is now known that each should do the work it was founded to do and is supported to accomplish, that a scientific museum is out of place in a town that is not a scientific center, a university museum is appropriate only in a university, a commercial museum is wasted except in a great mart, and a farmers' museum is not the most suitable kind for the city slum. An up-to-date museum in a small town with insufficient funds no longer tries to do what the British Museum in a large town financed by a nation does. A real scientific museum is no longer a hodge podge of a kindergarten museum and a commercial museum. A university museum now plans to differ from a museum solely devoted to scientific research and from a school museum. A museum for the general public is now known to serve the people poorly if it is labeled like a scientific museum, so that its labels do not interpret science—that is truth—to the general public in the language of the public. A farmers' museum probably has insufficient funds to devote energy to anything except the farmers' interests.

Museum Buildings

Museum buildings were built as architectural triumphs, but now more attention is given to building them so they will serve



MUSEUM KINDERGARTNER AND CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

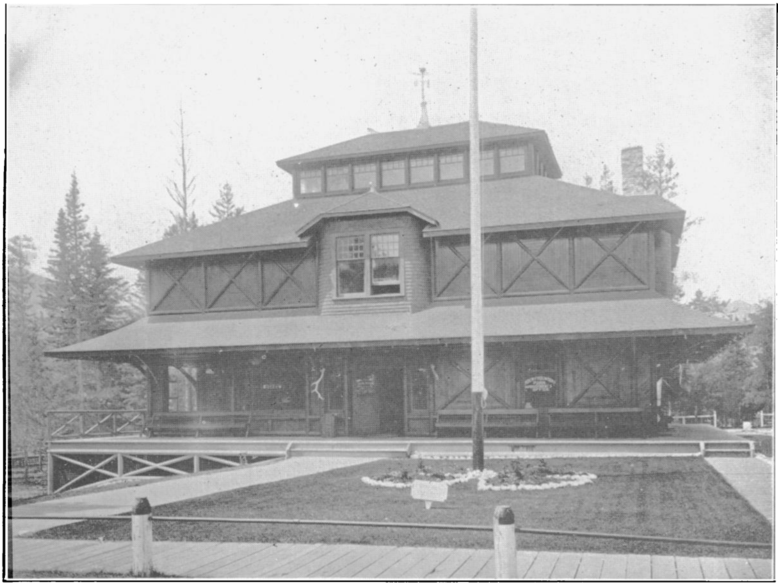
museum purposes. Some museums no longer wait for a fireproof or permanent or larger building, as that is certainly a waste of time. I once knew of a professor who complained that he could not teach a number of interested students because he had no class room, but I believe I can recall hearing of certain great teachers of antiquity, who taught their disciples by the roadside, without either class room or place to lay their heads, and this idea also applies to museums, for, after all, the whole outdoors is the best museum. A corner in every school-house may be a museum; a nook in every board-of-trade building may serve the same purpose. Much may be learned in a cheap inflammable building, and so in it may be made a more useful museum than are some poorly managed museums possessing fireproof structures costing thousands of dollars.

Sources of Museum Material

The inexpensive bee from home may be as interesting and useful or more interesting and more useful than the expensive orang-outang from afar. There is enough material near a museum for all the collections it has room to house. The fish and shell fish of the river, the frogs of its banks, the insects and plants of the door yard, the birds in the trees, the animals near by, the minerals, rocks and fossils of the hills, all offer useful material for research, education and recreation. Few people can answer the simplest questions about these things and more such specimens can be collected in an hour than can be labeled with encyclopedic labels in a year, to say nothing of properly preparing and preserving them. Some museums have many friends; for instance, for years the Barnum and Bailey Circus had all its rare animals which died on the road preserved and sent to a museum.

Exhibits

A hall of museum exhibits is often like a great book, an encyclopedia, where each description is illustrated with a real object. A library has books containing descriptions sometimes illustrated with pictures, maybe even colored pictures, but a museum has the actual object to illustrate its descriptive label. In the early stages of museum evolution, birds and animals were stuffed for exhibition and often the animals looked like bags with four legs. Now such exhibits are made by artists. Instead of stuffing a skin a sculptor models the form of the animal as if it were alive, but with its skin removed. Then



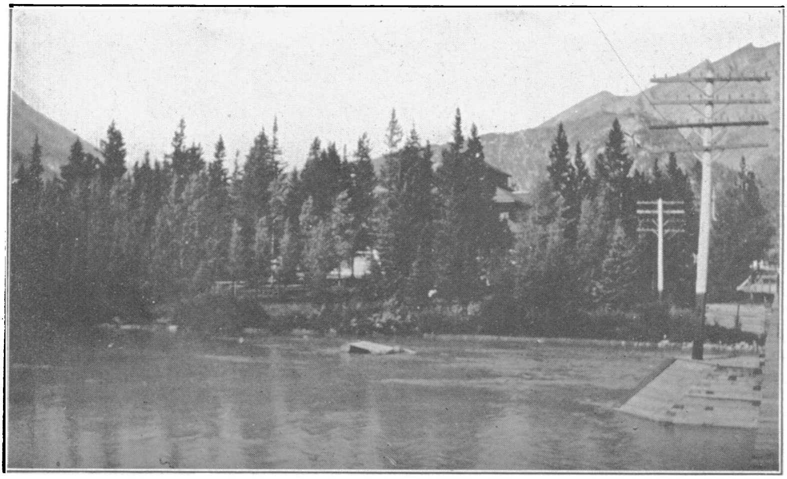
A RECREATION AND TOURIST OR VACATION MUSEUM. The Rocky Mountains Park Museum at Banff, in the Canadian Rockies.

the skin is placed over this form, which brings out the real anatomy of the animal. Even exhibits to illustrate man are made in a similar way. Plaster casts are made of various native tribes. These are posed as engaged in the typical activities, colored to resemble the living people, dressed in the proper costumes, and placed among the natural surroundings in front of a painting made by an expert artist, to illustrate the home country. This work can not be done by untrained men, but must be accomplished by artisans, mechanics and artists who have had very special training each in his own particular line. Sometimes in a country of millions of inhabitants there is no man trained in a certain special kind of work, so that a museum often has to send across the sea or to some equally far-away place for a skilled mechanic. Even Japanese, Eskimos and Indians are employed in one of our largest museums.

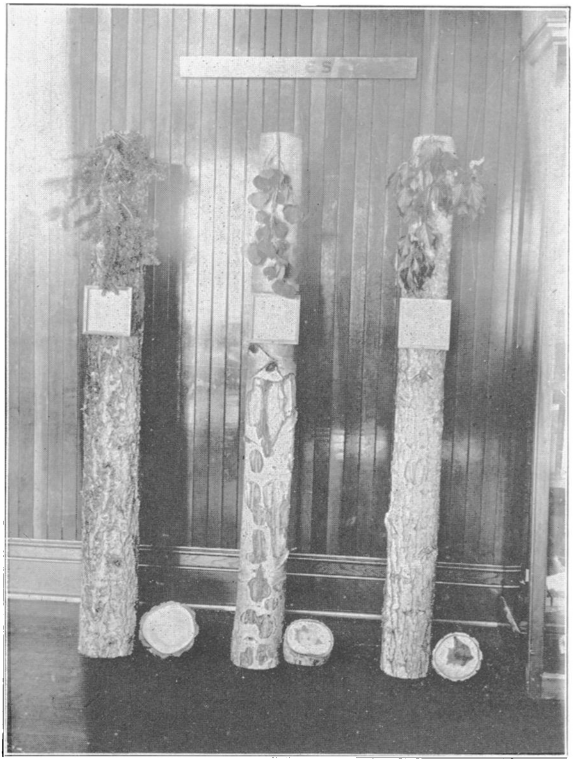
Some exhibits are made especially to be pedagogic, as, for instance, to show the life of a moth from egg to adult. Such exhibits are visited by school teachers with their classes.

Sometimes models teach quite as much as actual specimens. A model of a mosquito made many times larger than the insect itself shows us how to cope with malarial fever and yellow fever. We could not see the means by which the mosquito transmitted these diseases by looking at the mosquito herself, but the scientist in his laboratory with his microscope may find out all these things, make accurate plans and drawings of the various parts of the insect, and leave it to skilled mechanics to spend many months in reproducing them accurately on a large scale. Such work is not an extravagance when we consider that if the doctors and the people learn to avoid yellow fever and malaria the life-insurance companies do not have to pay so much life insurance and the amount paid for one death is easily sufficient for the construction of such a model.

Pictures are very useful with exhibits. For instance, bones of extinct animals are frequently found. No one knows what these animals looked like in life, but the scientist can study the bones and compare them with the bones of animals which he is able to observe. His artist can paint these living animals and he can explain to him in what respect the bones of the extinct animal differ. By a study of the bones of the feet he may learn and explain to the artist whether the animal walked in a swamp or on rocky ground. By a study of the animal's teeth he may tell what kind of food it ate. Then the artist can make his picture very much more intelligently than otherwise would be the case, and this picture conveys to the people some idea of what the animal formerly looked like. Sometimes the artist makes a sculpture of the animal instead of a painting or to accompany the painting, so that a complete exhibit might show a skeleton with a painting, a model, a label, a map, and perhaps even another animal, such as lives to-day and is akin to the extinct animal.



FROM RIVER BOTTOM TO MOUNTAIN TOP NEAR THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK MUSEUM IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES ENOUGH SPECIMENS MAY BE COLLECTED TO FILL THE ENTIRE MUSEUM.

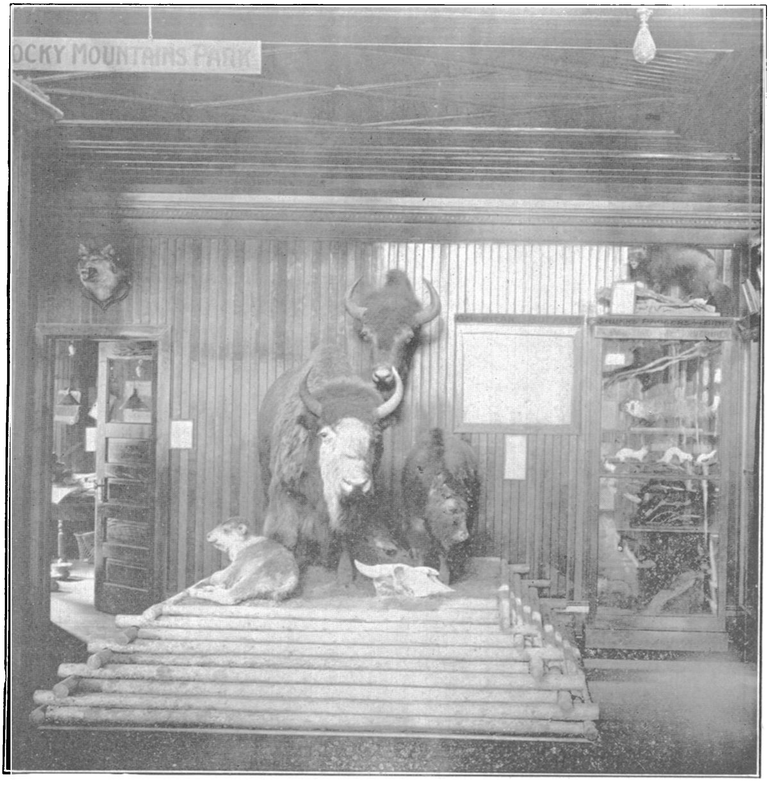


INEXPENSIVE TREE EXHIBIT, made as a by product of less than a day's work. Rocky Mountains Park Museum.

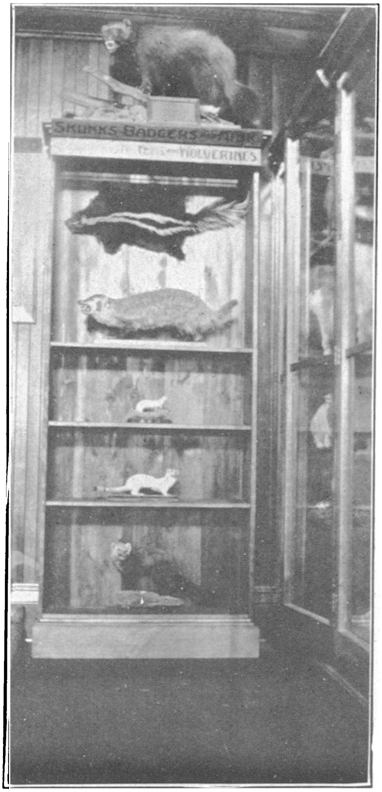
Specimens are arranged together for such purposes as to illustrate the idea of evolution, to show all the different musical instruments of the world, or to show all the things found in a certain province or all the animals, plants, minerals, and so forth, of a certain region, as, for instance, a desert, and contrast them with things from a forest.

Scientific books, that have been based on specimens and illustrated by pictures of the specimens, are often placed near the exhibits of the specimens, as are also guide books, especially written for the public, that is, giving the main scientific facts translated into the language of the people, but omitting details of interest only to the scientist or as matters of record.

Some museums make a special effort to prepare timely and useful exhibits and place them most conspicuously. These are sometimes hastily made to meet an impending demand for knowledge. In 1912 the tent caterpillars were so numerous in the vicinity of Ottawa that they destroyed the leaves of many shade and ornamental trees in the city and many fruit trees on the farms, as well as forest trees. They were even so numerous that their presence on the tracks delayed railroad trains many hours. The number of eggs on the trees in the spring of 1913 showed that this damage would be repeated, so an exhibit was prepared for the benefit of the people. One side of the case shows the life history of the tent caterpillar and some of the trees which it attacks. On the opposite side of the case are shown some of the means of controlling this pest. There are birds, photographs, lumps of chemicals, and a pail of commercial tanglefoot—an exhibit of inexpensive things that may save a city's shade trees—as useful an exhibit as one of rare objects. Magnifying glasses are used as an adjunct to this exhibit so that some of the smaller specimens may be more easily seen. When pressing need for such an exhibit is past, it may be retired or put in a less conspicuous place. This is an example of how officers of museums are endeavoring to find out what is useful to the people and to prepare helpful exhibits.



BUFFALO SPECIMENS GROUPED BY LOCAL LABOR AND CASE BUILT BY LOCAL CARPENTER IN ROCKY MOUNTAINS PARK MUSEUM. Such a case can be made for ten dollars wherever window sashes are available.



Case with Sash removed in Rocky Mountains Park Museum. Such a case can be made wherever window sash can be had. This ten dollar case is as useful for teaching purposes as five or six hundred dollar cases of some museums.

Example of Use of Staff

Officers of a museum have sometimes served the public on commissions or in other ways outside of the institution. For example, one zoologist was a member of the international commission which arbitrated the seal question.

Labels

A museum of specimens of things of which we should

Example of Use of Exhibits

An example of the use of a museum exhibit is illustrated by a page of designs taken from an exhibit of Indian handiwork. This page was distributed by an art teacher among all his students in the public schools in his work to better the designs of furniture, wall paper, stoves, etc.

Police and Fire Protection is given Specimens in Museums. Museum of the Geological Survey, Canada.

know, rather than of things merely curious or from so far that they do not affect us, if labeled and accompanied with models, maps and pictures, may easily be of more social service than some existing museum costing say ten times as much. In order to give this information clearly large classifying signs, smaller signs and still smaller descriptive labels are used and are as important as specimens. Besides these there are labels for each specimen chiefly to tell where that particular specimen is from and what it is. A collection of labels without any specimens might be of more service in a museum than a collection of specimens without labels. Labels asking questions may be used in a school museum to cause the visitor to observe closely and find out things for himself.

Publications are issued by various kinds of museums for as many purposes as the museums serve, such as records of research, complete catalogues giving details, popular guides calling attention briefly to the chief things of interest, and journals to interest people in museum work. Guide-books sometimes illustrate more than half the specimens exhibited, so the visitor from a thousand miles away may carry to his friends at home a glimpse of a large part of the exhibit with a full description and even with reference to authorities, for their use in case they care to pursue the subject into original sources. Some museums give such guide-books to the public, but as certain classes of people throw them away or destroy them, other museums prefer to charge a small sum for guides. This charge is usually less than the cost of the book.

Many museums now invite the people, through the public press, to avail themselves of its advantages. Often people would not know what they are missing, as of recently acquired material, and scientific news, were these not advertised in the papers. Business has found advertising to pay and museums now appreciate that it does. The citizens pay the taxes which make the scientific work of some museums possible and the staff feel in honor bound to lay aside their research for a time in order to explain in non-technical language such results of their study as may be valuable or merely interesting to the public.

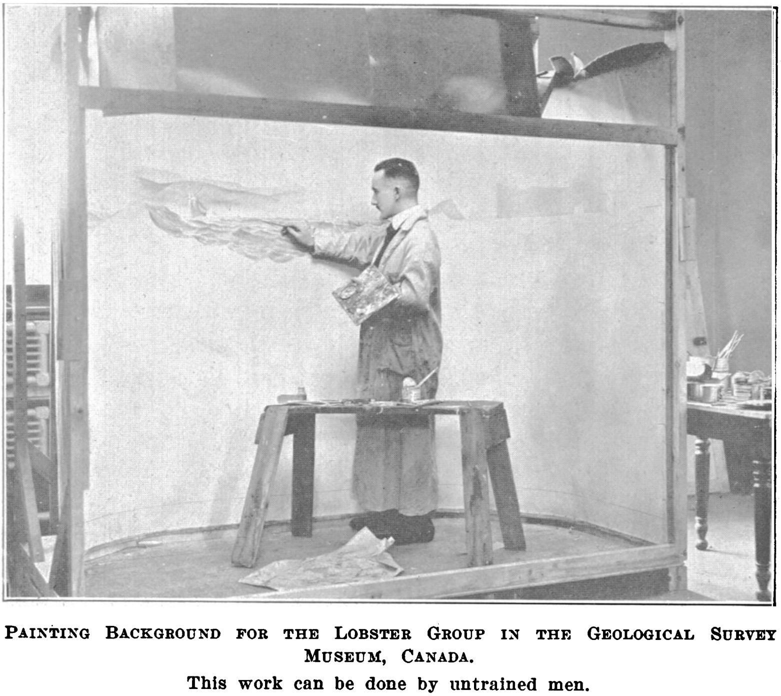
Publishers are encouraged to make postcards of museum exhibits and in this way through the natural channels of trade information is spread far and wide without any expense to the museum.

LIBRARY

Libraries constitute part of the equipment of many museums and suggest a tie between museums and other educational institutions. The books are used by both staff and visitor. The staff always needs to inform itself in order to do its work of research, preparing, installing and labeling.

VISITORS

Different classes of visitors use museums, rich and poor, wise and ignorant. Carpenters often study the specimens of woods, miners the minerals, teachers of art and architecture the collections of primitive art and the objects and pictures, showing the types of building of other times and other peoples.



PAINTING BACKGROUND FOR THE LOBSTER GROUP IN THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MUSEUM, CANADA.

This work can be done by untrained men.

Normal school classes that study in museums scatter what they learn from the exhibits to school children as far and wide as the region their normal school represents.

On the occasion of an exhibit for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis in one museum, over forty thousand visitors passed between the police lines in and out of the exhibit in a single day, which proves conclusively that the public is thoroughly alive to the importance and value of the most modern and useful museum work.

LECTURES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

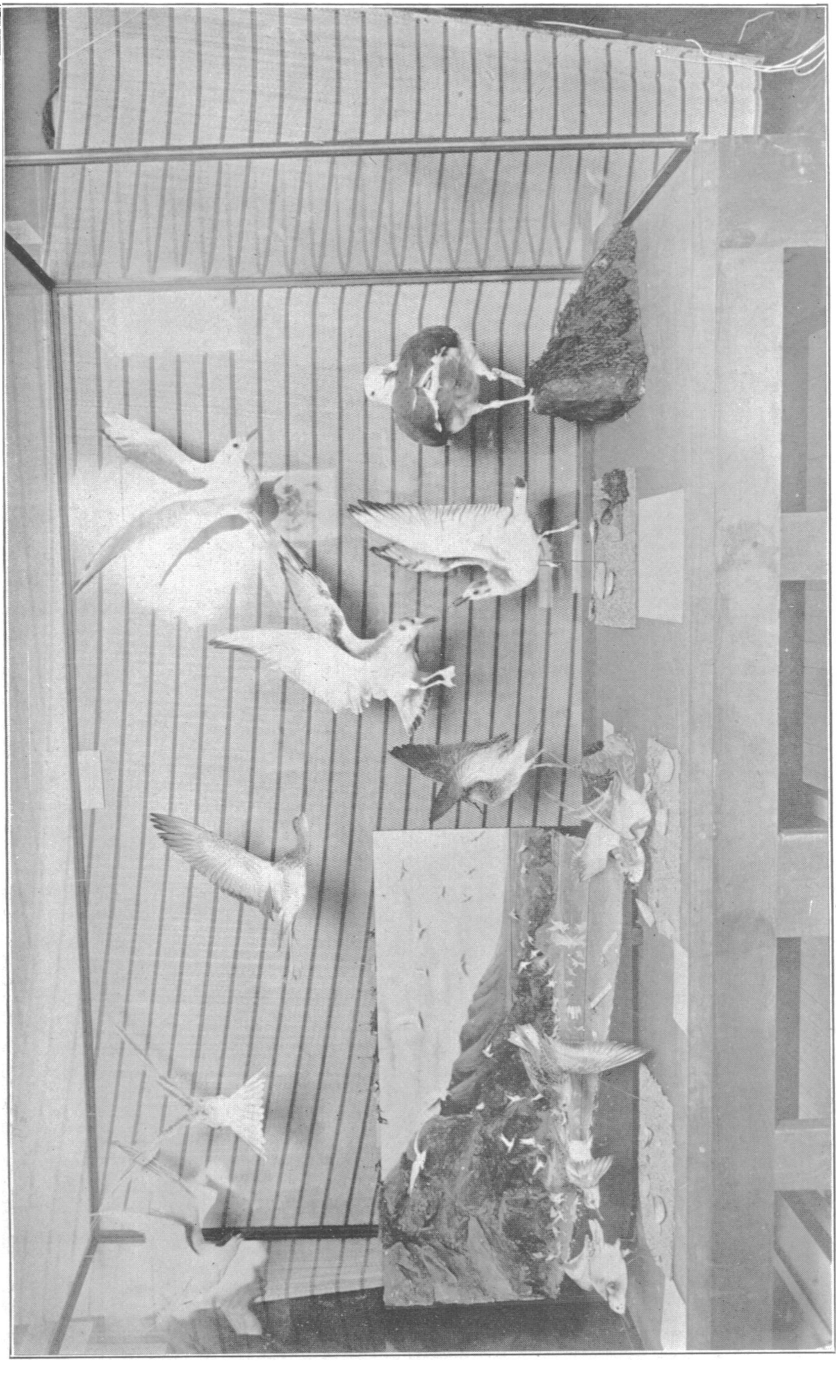
Lecture halls are included in the equipment of many modern museums. One museum has three lecture halls and gives lectures every day. Each lecture is made as appropriate to the audience as possible. So there are simple lectures for children, general lectures for the public, and specialized lectures for scientists, or people interested in the details of a single subject. There are also lectures for teachers, and for those who wish general entertainment in the lines of museum work. Even short informal talks, sometimes illustrated by specimens, are given when desired in exhibition halls, offices and shops.

The lectures are usually illustrated with specimens or lantern views, in some cases thrown up over thirty feet square and unsurpassed in coloring. Even the moving picture is used. Some museums collect vast numbers of negatives, some of them taken on expeditions, which form a great historic archive of increasing value as time passes. Prints are used for illustrating scientific papers, encyclopedias, text-books, popular books, magazines, newspapers, and the like, and from them are made hundreds of sets of lantern slides for illustrating as many lectures. One made over seventy duplicate sets of slides of each lecture, and sent them throughout a whole state for the use of all the teachers. It specified that no admission should be charged. Large audiences attend museum lectures. Seven thousand children once tried to hear a single lecture in a museum hall holding only 1,400, but eleven extra lecturers were called by 'phone from the door, the children were deflected to twelve different halls and were interested and instructed.

The photographs made from negatives taken on expeditions are kept in files or in scrap-books where they may be consulted, and prints are given out in small numbers free of cost, or in large quantities for the actual cost of the photographs, without regard to the expense of the expedition necessary to secure them. These are given to scientists for study and for illustrating their books, to educators to use as illustrations and to hold up before their classes. Many of them are used by magazine writers and newspaper men for illustrations and by sculptors and painters. In this way the explorer brings back glimpses of far-away lands which eventually are shared with people unable to travel or who must travel nearer home.

LOAN EXHIBITS AND MEETING PLACES

Some museums loan space for special and temporary exhibits such as art loans, flower shows, and sanitary exhibits,



SPECIMENS ARE NOW MOUNTED ACCORDING TO A MODEL JUST AS A HOUSE IS BUILT ACCORDING TO AN ARCHITECT'S PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.
Geological Survey Museum, Canada.

of which one illustrated the fight against the great white plague. For a few hours or days such exhibits are placed in front of the permanent museum exhibits.

Museums also become social centers or headquarters for scientific and educational purposes, where any or all classes of people may learn of or enjoy such things as art and science. The large lecture halls are particularly appropriate for general meetings and the smaller rooms for special societies.

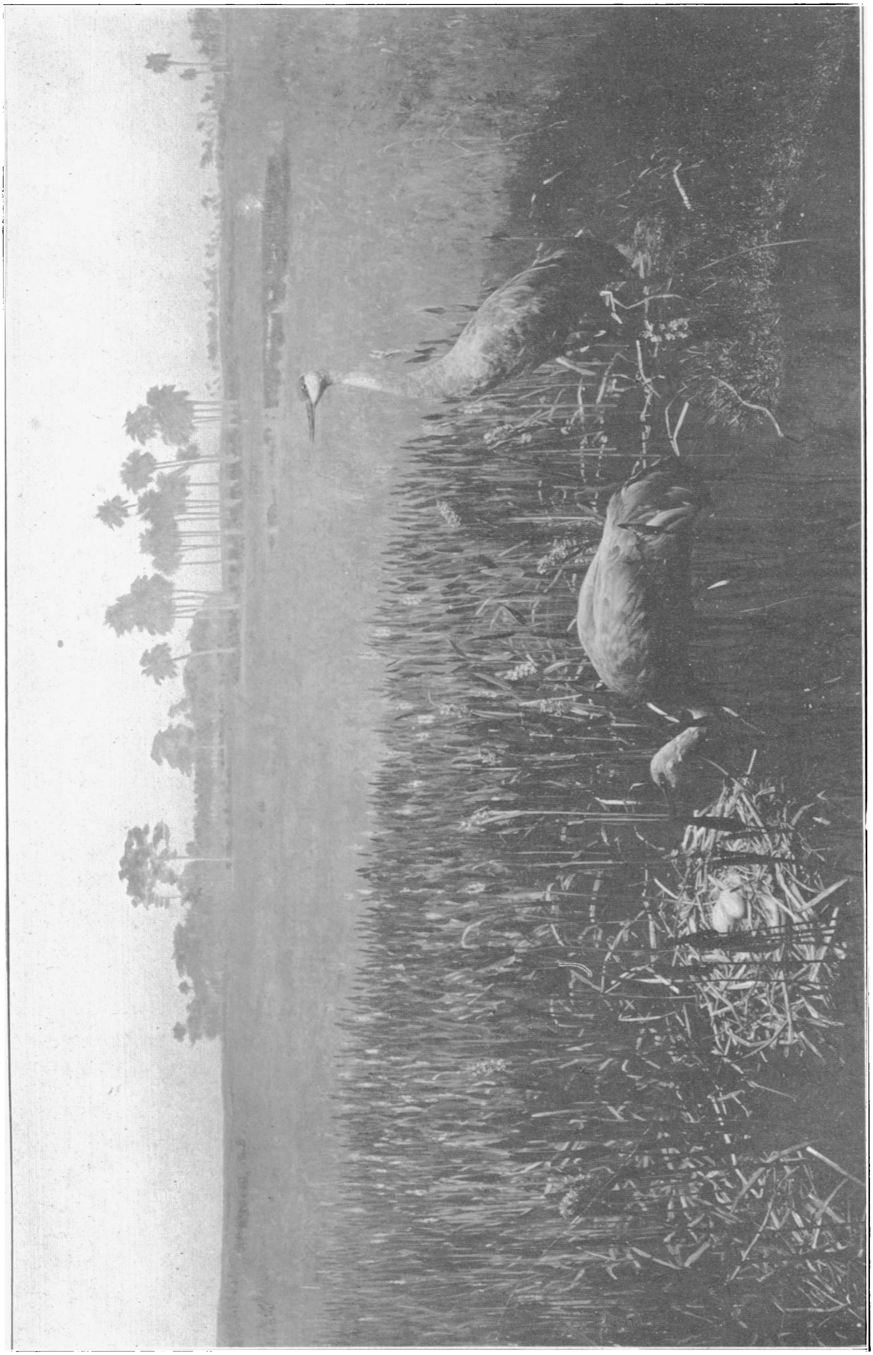
TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Where a few specimens are needed by thousands it is easier to move the specimens than the people. Branch banks, university extension lectures and traveling libraries grew out of a similar cause. Exhibits are put up in carrying cases with labels and guide-books describing the specimens, and these are sent from school to school, to libraries and other suitable places. In St. Louis, Chicago and New York, for instance, the success of this work has necessitated the use of museum automobile delivery vans and many thousands of children are served.

The business men of Canada for several years sent a train known as the "Made in Canada Special" throughout the length and breadth of the country. This train contained exhibits of the manufactures of the Dominion. It was a commercial museum on wheels, and it stopped only a few hours in the places visited, but it was thronged with visitors anxious to learn of the manufactured products of the country. Agricultural colleges and railroads have been using a somewhat similar method to uplift the people, and, if business men find it worth their while to educate the citizens, it would seem to be the duty of educators to consider this method for museum extension. Useful exhibits and moving-picture lectures installed on railroad cars side-tracked at various places would not only carry art, science and other phases of social service to places where no museum exists, but also present a model of methods to museums.

MUSEUM COOPERATION

There are over sixty museums in Canada, counting large and small. They are found from coast to coast, but are most numerous in the older settled and most cultured parts. Specimens are often loaned or given to smaller museums by the larger ones. Encyclopedic labels may be more economically produced if written by one curator, criticized by several, and printed for all. This saves the expensive duplication of writ-



SAND HILL CRANE GROUP WITH HOME SURROUNDINGS AND PAINTED BACKGROUND IN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

ing and typesetting and has the advantage that the labels are more accurate than if the work of one man working without criticism. Some such labels have been prepared by the Dominion government and offered free of charge to all the museums of the Dominion. At least eighteen museums and one zoological garden have taken advantage of this cooperation. A national museum may thus become a clearing house for all the museums of a country.

CONCLUSION

A finished museum would be a dead museum, but there is no such thing as a finished museum, for scientists are always making new discoveries which lead them to add new things, and to rearrange or re-label old material.

The museum that really teaches the children of to-day, and otherwise becomes useful to the public with clean though cheap cases, will gain the sound financial support which it deserves, at least as soon as the children of the present generation grow to positions of authority. The museums certainly have a great opportunity to be open on Sunday and at hours when those who work and all those who wish can make use of them. They may cheer, educate and uplift the humbler workers and the slum dwellers. These are the people, who, unable to travel, or perhaps even to buy books and pictures, may need the services of museums and kindred institutions more than those who have wealth and leisure or any other class. Museums may compete with ignorance and vice by pointing the way to the appreciation or use of things now neglected or unknown, and to greater joys and healthfulness through beauty and knowledge, until there is no room left in the mind for vice. Schools and universities had to struggle for recognition. Only a few years ago some communities looked upon libraries as of little or no importance, but now prize them highly. Museums come next in this evolution. Museum men may not know yet just how to perfect museum work, but if all carry on experiments and evolve useful methods as rapidly as some have during the past twenty years we may expect that within the next twenty years we shall have some museums at least that will be considered as useful as our best schools and libraries.